



**U.S. Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Prisons**

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
December 28, 2020

Contact: Office of Public Affairs  
202-514-6551

**Inmate Death at USP McCreary**

WASHINGTON, D.C.: On Thursday, December 17, 2020, inmate John Charles Buffalo tested positive for COVID-19 at the United States Penitentiary (USP) McCreary in Pine Knot, Kentucky, and was placed in medical isolation. On December 24, 2020, Mr. Buffalo displayed signs of respiratory distress and shortness of breath, became unresponsive, and life-saving measures were initiated. Staff requested emergency medical services (EMS) and he was transported by EMS to a local hospital. On the same day, Mr. Buffalo, who had long-term pre-existing medical conditions, which the CDC lists as risk factors for developing more severe COVID-19 disease, was pronounced deceased by outside hospital medical staff.

Mr. Buffalo was a 51-year-old male who was sentenced in the District of Montana to a 188-month sentence for Assault on Federal Officers. He had been in custody at USP McCreary since September 18, 2020.

USP McCreary is a high security facility with an adjacent minimum security satellite camp located in Pine Knot, Kentucky. USP McCreary currently houses 1,374 male offenders and the satellite camp currently houses 94 male offenders.

The Bureau of Prisons will continue to provide daily updates and information on actions related to COVID-19 at [www.bop.gov/coronavirus/index.jsp](http://www.bop.gov/coronavirus/index.jsp).

Additional information about the Bureau of Prisons can be found at [www.bop.gov](http://www.bop.gov).

###